

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 9-17, 31-37, 39, and 45 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A cutting blade for a hand-held cutting tool configured to mount the cutting blade with first and second mounting rods that are spaced from one another by a mounting distance, comprising:

a body having first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces being spaced from one another;

at least three mounting holes passing through the body, a first pair of the mounting holes being spaced the mounting distance from one another and a second pair of the mounting holes being spaced the mounting distance from one another, at least one of the mounting holes of the second pair not being included in the first pair of mounting holes;

a first shear edge adapted to cooperate with a reciprocating cutting member to shear a workpiece when the first and second mounting rods are received in the first pair of mounting holes, the first shear edge being spaced from the first pair of mounting holes by a first distance and in a first orientation with respect thereto and the first shear edge being spaced from the second pair of mounting holes by a second distance and in a second orientation with respect thereto, wherein at least one of the second distance and the second orientation differs from a respective one of the first distance and the first orientation; and

a second shear edge adapted to cooperate with the reciprocating cutting member to shear the workpiece when the first and second mounting rods are received in the second pair of mounting holes, the second shear edge being spaced from the first shear edge, the second shear edge being spaced from the second pair of mounting holes by the first distance and in the first orientation with respect to the second pair of mounting holes.

2. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 1 wherein there are three mounting holes, one of the mounting holes of the first pair comprising one of the mounting holes of the second pair.

3. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 1 wherein the at least three mounting holes comprise a central mounting hole, a first outer mounting hole and a second outer mounting hole, the central mounting hole being spaced from each of the first and second outer mounting holes by said mounting distance, the first pair of mounting holes comprising the central mounting hole and the first outer mounting hole and the second pair of mounting holes comprising the central mounting hole and the second outer mounting hole.

4. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 1 further comprising a blunt first guide surface extending transversely between the first and second shear faces along a first elongate edge of the body.

5. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 4 wherein the first shear edge is positioned at a junction of the first guide surface and the first shear face and the second shear edge is positioned at a junction of the first guide surface and the second shear face.

6. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 4 wherein the first guide surface is flat to lie flush against a face of the workpiece while the workpiece is sheared.

7. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 1 wherein the at least three mounting holes includes a third pair of mounting holes, the mounting holes of the third pair being spaced said mounting distance from one another, at least one of the mounting holes of the third pair being included in neither of the first and second pairs of mounting holes, the cutting blade further comprising a third shear edge adapted to cooperate with the reciprocating cutting member to shear the workpiece, the third shear edge being spaced from the first and second shear edges, the third shear edge being spaced from the third pair of mounting holes by the first distance and in the first orientation with respect to the third pair of mounting holes.

8. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 6 wherein the at least three mounting holes includes a fourth pair of mounting holes, the mounting holes of the fourth pair being spaced said mounting distance from one another, at least one of the mounting holes of the fourth pair being included in none of the first, second and third pairs of mounting holes, the

cutting blade further comprising a fourth shear edge adapted to cooperate with the reciprocating cutting member to shear the workpiece, the fourth shear edge being spaced from the first, second and third shear edges, the fourth shear edge being spaced from the fourth pair of mounting holes by the first distance and in the first orientation with respect to the fourth pair of mounting holes.

9-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A cutting blade for a hand-held cutting tool of the type having a motor, a casing having a support adapted to carry a pair of fixed cutting blades in a spaced-apart relationship, and a reciprocating cutting member which pivots about a transverse axis to reciprocate between the fixed cutting blades, the cutting blade comprising:

a body having spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces defining a thickness of the body;

a first guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces along a first elongate edge of the body;

a first shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the first shear face and a second shear edge defined at the junction between the first guide surface and the second shear face, the first and second shear edges being parallel to and spaced from one another by the thickness of the body;

a first pair of mounting points adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the first shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a workpiece and to position the second shear edge transversely outwardly of both the reciprocating cutting member and the first shear edge, the first pair of mounting points including a central mounting point spaced a first distance from the first shear edge and a first distal mounting point spaced a different second distance from the first shear edge; and

a second pair of mounting points adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the second shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a

workpiece and to position the first shear edge transversely outwardly of both the reciprocating cutting member and the second shear edge, the second pair of mounting points including the central mounting point, which is spaced the first distance from the second shear edge, and a third distal mounting point spaced the second distance from the second shear edge.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 18 wherein the blade further comprises a second guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces along a second elongate edge of the body, the second guide surface being spaced from the first guide surface; a third shear edge defined at the junction between the second guide surface and the first shear face; and a fourth shear edge defined at the junction between the second guide surface and the second shear face.

23. (Original) The cutting blade of claim 22 wherein the blade further comprises a third mount adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the third shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a workpiece with the fourth shear edge being spaced transversely outwardly from both the reciprocating cutting member and the third shear edge; and a fourth mount adapted to mate with the support of the housing to position the fourth shear edge adjacent the reciprocating cutting member for shearing a workpiece with the third shear edge being spaced transversely outwardly from both the reciprocating cutting member and the fourth shear edge.

24-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 1 wherein the at least one mounting hole of the second pair that is not included in the first pair does not receive a mounting rod when the first and second mounting rods are received in the first pair of mounting holes.

45. (Cancelled)